

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 12573 261350Z

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ACTION NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7964

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, IN, UR

SUBJECT: INDO-SOVIET COOPERATION IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

1. ACCORDING TO A SAMACHAR REPORT FROM MOSCOW, INDIA AND THE SOVIET UNION SIGNED A PROTOCOL ON AUGUST 20 FOR RESEARCH COLLABORATION IN THE FOLLOWING TEN AREAS: LASERS, CYBERNETICS, FORESTRY, ELECTRO SLAG REFINING, EXPERIMENTAL BLAST FURNACE, REHABILITATION ENGINEERING WITH SPECIAL RELEVANCE TO TITANIUM BIOIMPLANTS, CRYOGENICS, CATALYSIS, SURFACE ACOUSTICS AND FIBER OPTICS, METAL PHYSICS, ESPECIALLY FORMING INTO SHAPES OF SINGLE AND POLY-CRYSTALLINE METALS AND ALLOYS BY STEPHANOV'S METHOD.

2. THE PROTOCOL WAS SIGNED BY DR. A. RAMACHANDRAN, GOI SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, WHO HEADED A 5-MAN DELEGATION TO THE SOVIET UNION FOR THIS PURPOSE ON BEHALF OF INDIA. INDIA AND THE SOVIET UNION ALREADY HAVE COOPERATIVE PROJECTS IN MAGNETO HYDRODYNAMIC POWER GENERATION, STANDARDIZATION AND METROLOGY, CORROSION STUDIES, BUILDING MATERIALS AND

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PAGE 02 NEW DE 12573 261350Z

EARTHQUAKE ENGINEERING.

3. IT IS EXPECTED THAT COOPERATIVE PROJECTS IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS MAY ALSO BE CONSIDERED AT A FUTURE DATE: OPTALMOLOGY, VIROLOGY, ONCOLOGY, YOGA THERAPY, CARDIOLOGY, MEDICINAL PLANTS AND GROUND WATER EXPLORATION AND LATERNATIVE SOURCES OF NEERGY.

4. IT IS ALSO REPORTED THAT THE TWO DELEGATIONS RECOMMENDED SETTING UP OF A SEPARATE JOINT SUBCOMMISSION ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNDER THE EXISTING JOINT COMMISSION.

5. DR. L.N. EFEREMOV, VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND LEADER OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION, HAS ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO VISIT INDIA.

6. ACCORDING TO ANOTHER REPORT FROM MOSCOW, INDIA AND THE SOVIET UNION HAVE SIGNED A PROTOCOL IDENTIFYING AREAS OF COLLABORATION IN THIRD COUNTRY PROJECTS WHEREIN INDIAN KNOWHOW IN CIVIL CONSTRUC-
TION IS PROPOSED TO BE USED EXTENSIVELY.

7. DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION DR. R.D. DESHPANDE AND DR. K.S. CHATTERJEE, COORDINATOR IN ENERGY PROGRAMS, DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, RECENTLY TOLD A VISITING ERDA COAL RESEARCH EXPERT THAT HE SHOULD VISIT BHARAT HEAVY ELECTRICALS LIMITED (BHEL) AT TRICHURAPALLI WHERE WORK ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF COAL RESEARCH INCLUDING MHD WAS BEING UNDERTAKEN. THEY SAID THAT THE MHD PROJECT WITH THE SOVIETS WAS PROGRESSING VERY SATISFACTORILY. HOWEVER, WHEN THE POSSIBILITY OF THIS WAS MENTIONED TO AN OFFICIAL OF THE BHEL, HE SAID THAT IT WOULD BE AT LEAST A YEAR BEFORE THE PROJECTS ARE MATURED ENOUGH TO MAKE IT WORTHWHILE FOR SOMEONE TO VISIT THERE. INDIA SHOULD GAIN FROM SOVIET COLLABORATION IN SOME OF THE FIELDS IN WHICH THE LATTER EXCEL SUCH AS IN MHD, BUT THE IMPRESSION GAINED

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TIZER#VISITS TO SOME OF THESE SOVIET AIDED PROJECTS IN INDIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS IS THAT THERE IS FLOW OF EQUIPMENT AND METHODOLOGY BUT NOT MUCH EXCHANGE OF RESEARCH EXPERIENCE. TO THAT EXTENT INDIAN SCIENTISTS STILL PREFER COLLABORATION WITH THE WEST.

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PAGE 03 NEW DE 12573 261350Z

NOTE BY OC/T: (#) TEXT AS RECEIVED.

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